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Jefferson Davis letter to Alexander M. Clayton, September 1869

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London England
15th Sept. 1869

Hon. A. M. Clayton

Dear Friend,

Your kind letter of
the 15th Ult^o. was sent to me
by Mr. Gilliat, it was but one
more added to the many acts
which leave me your very grateful
debtor. You justly regarded it
unnecessary to express the nature
of your considerate attention to
my probable wants, and you
will I am sure readily com-
prehend the feeling which has
governed me in uniformly de-
clining to receive personal con-
tributions. Were I to concede the
justice of your proposition, it would
still be improper for me to agree
that a few of my nearest friends
should be charged with what you term
a duty of the people on me.

I have returned the check to the Mr. Gilliatte and he promised to send notice to Mr. Barker that it was cancelled.

It is my purpose to sail from South-hampton for Baltimore on the 25th Inst. and I hope to see you this fall in our beloved Mississippi. Gov. Harris has sent to me a proposition from Memphis, in which the President of the Carolina life insurance Co. invites me to establish a branch of that institution at some place to be agreed on. The salary offered is sufficiently good & I have agreed to have the proposed conference. To you I say confidentially that though it is necessary for me to do something for a support, it is essential that it should be consistent with self respect and also with whatever of the good name of our people may be in my keeping as in some sense their representative.

I do not know the officers of the Company neither am I informed as to the means and management of the corporation. So I would be glad to have your opinion upon the matter before I see the President which may be before you and I meet. Will you therefore write to me at Baltimore, care of Mr. John S. Gittings

I have felt that it was due to truth and the brave men who so nobly struggled to maintain the rights of the South, that I should make some contribution to the history of our secession and the war consequent upon it. There are some events of which I have special information, to make that information into a narrative there is need for facts and papers which it will be most possible to obtain at home.

The most of my letters and manuscripts as President of the Confederacy I have, and that is the only record I possess. As soon as it

is possible for me to get an abiding place, I propose to commence the collection of material and begin the work. Offers have been made by publishers which promise a tempting pecuniary reward; but though ~~this~~ is an important consideration, the duty of doing justice to the cause is the more important, and for that, there must be a delay which by exhausting expectation will no doubt greatly diminish the probable receipts from the sale of such a work.

When you write to Mr. Barker please to present the course I have felt it necessary to adopt in such manner as will assure him of my sincere thanks. He will find the best evidence in the fact that he and my long-trusted and most valued friend are in the like position - Please give my kindest remembrance to Mrs Clayton and your daughter and believe me very truly your friend

Jefferson Davis

U. S. America:



Hon: A. M. Clayton
Holly Springs.
Marshall County
Mississippi.

